

Telephone Traces White House History

President Hayes Had First Phone in Executive Mansion

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WASHINGTON.—Recently the President turned down a very flossy television set because he already had one. It was installed in the White House last January in time for Mr. Truman to "see" the installation of the new Republican congress.

However, I imagine this innovation caused nowhere near the flurry among the White House staff that ensued on that day in 1878 when the first telephone instrument was put in. That was in the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio, the 19th president—and that was the year in which the Democrats, who already had control of the house, acquired control in the senate as well.

However, the opposition, when it became the majority, made blunder after blunder. Mr. Hayes continued his administration with a quiet if perhaps somewhat monotonous dignity, until he was succeeded by another Republican, President Garfield.

I doubt if the even tenor of Mr. Hayes' existence was frequently disturbed by the ringing of the telephone bell—or much of anything else for that matter. Very few residences or places of business possessed phones then. Furthermore, the telephone was by no means accepted as a means of communication for presidents or their entourages in those days. In any case, the White House managed to limp along on one phone until the end of President Cleveland's administration.

By the time President McKinley entered the White House, all government offices had phones and they were accepted as every-day necessities, but they were not an important element in the handling of White House business.

When Teddy Roosevelt came in, despite his strenuous activities and what was considered then a somewhat revolutionary outlook, he made very little use of the telephone himself.

Then along came Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, a part of which was a five-position branch exchange with more than 200 official extensions and 20 outside trunk connections to handle the calls. "White House calling" became a by-word.

Then also came the first woman telephone operator and probably the most efficient of either sex that the White House ever had or will have in many a day. Louise Hachmeister—"Hackie"—is probably favorably known to more famous users of the telephone than any other operator in history. Her genius in being able to locate people anywhere in the world has been the subject of many a story. Louis Howe, who introduced her to the President while she was working at Friends of Roosevelt headquarters, called her "the world's greatest telephone detective" because, he



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said, "she doesn't need a number to get her man."

Once she located Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr. with no other clue than that he was motoring east from California.

I don't know how many long-distance calls a day she put in at the peak of the war but I do know that the number of long-distance calls out of Washington jumped from approximately 11,000 a day in 1939 to well over 48,000 in 1945. Today they have dropped back to a little over 44,000. It is fair to assume that the White House calls have followed the same curve under the nimble-fingered direction of "Hackie."

Even by 1935 it took five operators in shifts to handle the White House calls. At that time Miss Hachmeister was the first and only woman to operate a White House switchboard.

President Truman uses the telephone a good deal—he has so many friends on Capitol Hill that



LOUISE HACHMEISTER
... doesn't need a number ..."

his voice is almost as familiar over those branch lines as it was when he was a senator himself.

I don't know how much fun he gets out of the television set. His bowling alley is pretty dusty and the dirt doesn't often fly on his horseshoe pitching court—or whatever the technical name of that arena is. As to the "video," it can't be half the novelty to him that the old-fashioned telephone instrument was to President Hayes.

Russian Enigma Illustrated

Boris Krelov has gone home. He was a member of the staff of Tass (official Soviet news agency), stationed for some three years in Washington.

So far as I have been able to learn, his American contacts, which were many, both official and personal, made not a single ideological impact upon him or his way of thinking. He upheld the Russian cause; he talked more freely than most Russians in a semi-official or official capacity do but (also so far as I can learn) he never offered the slightest compromise of viewpoint, never accepted any argument or explanation of democratic (American-style) methods of thought or action.

And yet—and here is the thing that baffled most of us—he was well-liked, he was good company, and if we could have found the tiniest peg on which to hang an idea, he would have inspired us to write about Russia "with a heart," as a Russian woman interpreter is reported to have begged of Sam Welles, Time's correspondent in Moscow.

We wonder about Boris. We would have liked so much to sit down and talk frankly and freely with him about the common problems and the still more common misunderstandings between our countries. Was he able to appear so genial and friendly and charming because he held such high rank at home that he wasn't afraid to consort, as far as personal matters went, as a trusting friend?

Was he so deeply indoctrinated in the ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism that he was filled with pity rather than the typical suspicion which seems to permeate most Russian-American relations? One slight clue we have, though it may be a false one. Once, at a rather intimate gathering, Krelov's hostess finally grew a little impatient and said something like this: "Listen here, Boris, we're friends. Surely you can be frank with us

and explain why your government—

Before she could finish (he guessed what was coming) he held up his hand.

"Please," he said with a disarming smile that took the sting out of his words, "We are having such a pleasant time, but you force me to say this: I cannot explain what you wish because you people are just too stupid to understand Communism."

If that sentiment is a sincere and typical expression of how the men who run Russia feel, the road ahead is a rocky one. Kipling once put into verse the problem he felt the foreigner faced in trying to understand the American. What he said might be applied to Russia:

"Inopportune, shrill accented, the acrid Asiatic mirth that leaves him careless 'mid his dead, the scandal of the elder earth. How shall he clear himself, how reach your bar or weighed defense prefer—a brother bedged with alien speech and lacking all interpreter?"

75 MILLION ACRES

U.S. Boosts 1948 Wheat Goal

WASHINGTON.—Fourth largest wheat acreage the farmers of this nation have ever planted may be realized in 1948 if the department of agriculture's revised goal of 75 million acres is met next year.

That mark is a five million-acre increase from the pattern recommended last year and a seven million-acre boost over the wheat goal set last spring before the corn outlook took on its gloomy cast. Continued and unremitting international demand for food grains influenced the agriculture department into making the upward revision.

While officials admitted that the increased acreage constitutes an invitation to farmers to plant heavily in wheat, they cautioned against

NEWS REVIEW

Mark Birthday of Atom; Hungarian Attitude Hit

ANNIVERSARY: Bells Told

In Hiroshima, Japan, the bells tolled. People of the city stood silently in prayer for a moment, then went on about the business of living.

It was the second anniversary of the radiant, consuming flash of the world's first atomic bomb.

Hiroshima, which saw 92,000 of its citizens immolated in that uncontrollable outburst of energy in 1945, was perhaps the one place on earth where the bomb could be thought of as a reality. Everywhere else it was a nightmarish, Damoclean sword; but in Hiroshima the people were paying it a sort of fantastic and bewildered adulation.

They tolled bells, and they planned the building of a modern city with a peace memorial at the spot over which the bomb had been dropped.

At other points across the globe, the atomic age was living up to its awful reputation by wringing fearsome comments and predictions from men who are supposed to know about it.

Robert M. Hutchins, chancellor of University of Chicago, said that two atom bombs which now could be manufactured would make the United States uninhabitable if exploded simultaneously. He made it a complete Jeremiad by adding, "We know that some other country will have the atomic bomb within five years. We know that when that happens we are all set for the final catastrophe."

In a constructive moment, Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, atom pioneer, said that usable electrical power derived from atomic energy may be available by 1952.

But everybody knew that the United States was stressing development and production of the atomic bomb to build a stockpile for utter destruction. And everybody knew that Russia was laboring furiously toward the same ends.

The people of Hiroshima did well to toll bells two years after they felt the bomb. It brought to mind an old, poetic question:

Did the bells herald a wedding or a funeral?

INSOLENCE: Slap Hands

The United States, visibly irked by recent actions of the new Communist Hungarian government, vented its diplomatic rage in a stinging note which accused Hungary of "inadmissibly insolent" conduct toward American diplomats in that country.

Second cause for U. S. anger was the arrest and beating in Budapest of an American citizen and the subsequent unsatisfactory explanation of the incident offered by Hungarian officials.

One of the most harshly worded

protests to come from the state department since American planes were shot down over Yugoslavia a year ago, the note marked the first official displeasure to be delivered by the United States to the puppet Hungarian regime.

The incident grew out of the arrest of Stephen T. Thuransky, an American citizen, for his alleged "revolting and scandalizing vilifications in public" of Hungary's president and other government members. Thuransky, his wife and two daughters later were taken into custody by U. S. legation officials and removed to Vienna.

In the protest note, the state department pointed out that the arrest of an American citizen on purely political charges is "absolutely inadmissible" under the armistice agreement which prevails in Hungary. Also, officials of the Hungarian ministry of the interior were accused of being "uncooperative in the extreme and in some cases inadmissibly insolent."

VIVA: Toreador

Orson Welles, the man who didn't come from Mars, has found himself, to put it politely, on the horns of a dilemma.

The self-designated genius was quoted recently as saying he had killed 20 bulls, and immediately he was challenged by another actor, Fortunio Bonanova, to enter the bull-fighting ring at Tijuana, Mexico, and perform for the benefit of charity.

Said the Spanish-born Bonanova in an open letter to Welles, "Killing 20 bulls is a lot of killing," neglecting to add that it is also a lot of bulls.

"So let us do a corrida (series of fights) this season in Tijuana for the motion picture relief fund. I am sure the impresario would give us a Sunday afternoon. What do you say to two bulls apiece?"

Admission: Shady side, \$2; sunny side, \$1.

ALEUTIANS: Bases Retained

The Aleutian islands, that long, cold chain of fog-bound rocks which started many an American G.I. talking to himself during the war, is being integrated into the pattern of the North American defense system.

General of the Army Dwight Eisenhower has revealed that the framework of strategic bases in the Aleutians is being kept intact for rapid expansion if necessary.

After having paid a visit to the continent's northernmost line of defense, General Eisenhower said that the islands were not being abandoned, but were undergoing a "contraction and concentration of military potential."



FOR the last six years, if you feel strong enough to turn back the calendar to 1941, the Cardinals and the Dodgers have taken over most of the pennant interest in the National league. By some odd turn, the Cubs slipped safely into port in 1945, but even then the Cardinals were breathing not fire on their necks.

It must be admitted, that in most of the Cardinal-Dodger pursuit races, the Red Birds from St. Louis, have shown more wing power in the stretch. They had the extra flutter needed. A year ago, around this time, the Dodgers were seven-and-a-half games in front of their Cardinal pursuers, but this lead wasn't enough, as they finished in a dead heat with the Cardinals winning the play-off.

Whatever happens in the foggy future, and all futures are foggy, the Dodgers have stolen the National league show up to this spot.

Just before the season opened, their manager, Leo Durocher, was ordered to Elba, or St. Helena, the Napoleonic hide-out, by Happy Chandler, who, right or wrong, also was wrapped up in a fog. This forced Branch Rickey to reach out and drag in Burt Shotton, the most underrated manager in baseball, who knew nothing about his team.

Shotton stepped into the middle of a strange squad. He soon lost his star, Pete Reiser, who still believes his head is harder than a hydrant or a concrete wall. Then Shotton began looking around for a pitcher who could travel four innings—almost anyone who could locate the general direction of the plate.

A Mild Old-Timer

Shotton, a mild, country looking old-timer, the exact opposite of Durocher, like Ole Man River, just kept rolling along. The Dodgers were shot. The day of the Bums was over. The Brooklyn attendance would take a dizzy dip. But what happens? The Dodgers move out in front, and the attendance fills the ball park, despite a wet, cold spring and a wetter, colder June.

The Dodgers, so far, under Shotton, have outplayed the Bums. And they have even keener fan support. For Brooklyn knows its baseball and Brooklyn understands and appreciates the handicaps Shotton has faced, with Chuck Dressen and Red Corriden over in the Yankee camp.

An old-timer by the name of Burt Shotton deserves much more credit than he has received. He has turned in one of the big jobs of the year.

The Cardinals, looking back to March and April, appeared to have class. The Braves have had power, pitching and hitting. But the Dodgers remain the major threat, the team to beat.

A few days ago, I ran across my old friend Arky Vaughan, one of the best all-around ballplayers you'll see in many a year. Arky can play either the infield or the outfield—and he is one of the best natural hitters baseball has known.

"What holds the Dodgers up?" I asked.

"A good all-around ball club," Vaughan answered. "There's always somebody around to handle the job when we get in trouble. This means pitchers, outfielders or infielders. We've had more hard luck with Reiser, Edwards and others, than any other team. But we keep hustling. We'll out hustle the Cardinals, too. We have a bunch of young pitchers, who will be stars next year. After all, Branca is only 21. Watch Hatten and Barney. Robinson has turned in a swell job. Show me a stronger second base-shortstop combination than Reese and Stanky. They are winning ballplayers. The Dodgers are made up of winning ballplayers."

The Yen to Win

"Every team and every ballplayer likes to win. But the Dodgers like the winning side better than anyone else. I can't understand why so many people are surprised at the Dodgers' showing. We might easily, with better luck, have been much farther in front."

It might be mentioned here that Vaughan has been one of the stars in this Dodger drive. Vaughan's hitting and his all-around play has filled a wide-open gap. And Vaughan is no longer a kid.

But, now the Cardinals are coming along—and the Cardinals have always been the team to beat.

They were 3-to-5 shots last April. They were the sure things of an unsure game. They still look to have the class, the experience, the pitching and their share of power. But, it is still a question as to whether they can outrun the Dodgers and the Braves. Anyone who leaves or goes out the Braves is a trifle goofy.

The Yankees already have wrecked the American league race. This means a bigger world series payoff. This also means a keener financial interest for any National league winner.



Try sewing buttons on children's garments with dental floss. The waxed thread will withstand more wear and tear than the ordinary thread.

Finger marks and ugly smudges on wallpaper can be removed efficiently with a handy art gum eraser. Keep one of these erasers on hand for easy cleaning.

Hang table linens on the lines lengthwise. The warp threads in the long weave are stronger than the woof threads.

Buy pillow cases large enough for your pillows. Otherwise the casings will not stand the wear and tear.

When shoes begin to scuff and peel, rub them with the white of an egg. It will paste down the broken pieces.

Table linen should be looked over for stains before putting in the wash tub. Soapy water will set the stains, and measures must be taken to remove any marks before immersing in the suds.

Your step-stool or kitchen ladder can't be too carefully chosen. It should be as wide and sturdy as possible with rubber feet and non-slip treads for safety. Take no chances on a rickety ladder.

Small scraps of white candles may be put together in a small cotton bag and brought out on ironing day. The iron won't stick if it's passed over the bag a few times.

Avoid leaning against the door when riding in an automobile. If you like to sit sideways, put on the safety latch.

Removing outside paint is best done with a blowtorch, but the element of danger must always be borne in mind. Use only enough flame to melt the paint. Then scrape immediately with a knife. Hold the torch in one hand and use the other for the scraper.

Before washing glasses which have held milk, rinse them in cold water.

Before washing dirty curtains, allow them to soak in cold water overnight, to loosen dirt.

Dogs I've Known...



Hunger Striker Doesn't like the food he's getting and makes no secret of it. If only his mistress would dish up Gro-Pup Ribbon! Crisp, Toasted. Made with 23 essential nutrients. Economical, too. One box supplies as much food in dry weight as five 1-lb. cans of dog food! Gro-Pup also comes in Meal and in Pel-Etts. Feed all three.



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Kidneys Must Work Well-

For You To Feel Well 24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

